

Period. Div.

EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE
UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

APR 21 1938

Conference Of Open Door International In England

Why I Favor The Equal Rights Amendment

By DR. FLORENCE RENA SABIN
Of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

Tribute To Early Exponent Of Equal Rights In America

By JOSEPH F. GUFFEY
United States Senator from Pennsylvania

April 15, 1938

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

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Equal Rights



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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Townsend (Del.), and Senator Burke, (Neb.), Feb. 5, 1937, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 65).

House—By Representative Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 5, 1937, (House Joint Resolution No. 1).

Present Status

Senate—Before Senate: Reported by Senate Judiciary Committee March 21, 1938; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 23, 1937.

House—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 16, 1937.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right of vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

Before the League of Nations Committee on Status of Women.

Equal Rights Versus Prejudice

THE RECENT hearing on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment before the sub-Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate has been productive of much discussion and newspaper comment throughout the United States.

It so happens that a preponderance of the newspaper comment is on the side of the extension of democracy to women, which we believe to be indicative of the sentiment of the nation, evidenced by the fact that the Amendment is now before Congress.

The editorials opposing the submission of the Equal Rights Amendment in many instances reflect the traditional prejudice on which the major part of the opposition to the measure is based.

The Brooklyn (N. Y.) *Citizen* puts it very bluntly when it says: "Women are constructed differently physiologically from men. They are needed to bear and breed children, if our race is to continue. Because of what we males have considered their weakness and because of our vital need for them, we have chosen to treat women as wards. We have labelled the protective urge chivalry or gallantry . . .

"We are convinced that woman has come down pretty far from the pedestal. Certainly some of the chivalry has vanished with her disdain of protection. We think it is time for woman to go back to her pedestal, where it may protect her anew."

The entire point of view is so archaic and yet it expresses with such naive truthfulness the common law attitude toward women, that it shows the odds against which women have made the recent advance placing the Equal Rights Amendment before the Senate. Warped thinking—or no thinking at all—constitutes the greatest menace women encounter. Keeping a class of citizens in an inferior status by denying them the right to develop and progress, is likewise denying to the Nation development and progress. Self-respecting, educated and free women make better mothers of the race than those who are kept in even partial bondage. The children of free parents have a better heritage.

The so-called chivalry of which the *Citizen* speaks is of little substance and is a poor exchange for justice. The pedestal on which it is alleged women have stood placed beyond the reach of women of the United States the right to equal guardianship of their children; the right to handle their own property; the right to own their own wages and to earn a living unhampered by discriminatory laws based on sex. The so-called pedestal has not been high enough to prevent some men from scaling the height to claim their wives' wages and control of their property.

The worm has a way of turning and justice has a way of eventually asserting itself. Women are now citizens of the United States and they do not choose to be treated as wards.

The *Citizen* apparently has overlooked the fact that women are now citizens of the United States and in a democracy it is not in order for one-half of the citizens to "choose to treat as wards" the other half.

Degrading women can hardly be said to elevate them, which is the function of a pedestal. The term "pedestal," therefore, appears to be merely the sugar coating of the pill, just as the word "protection" was designed to sugar coat the pill of restrictive labor laws applying to women only, thereby protecting the jobs for their men competitors, and again hoisting women to the deceptive imaginary pedestal—the height of folly and the depth of degradation.

Conference Of Open Door International In England For Economic Emancipation Of The Woman Worker

(OBJECT—To secure that a woman shall be free to work and protected as a worker on the same terms as a man, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours, payment, entry and training shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker. And to secure for a woman, irrespective of marriage or childbirth, the right at all times to decide for herself whether or not she will engage in paid work, and to ensure that no legislation or regulations shall deprive her of this right.)

THE Open Door International calls upon its members throughout the world, and on men and women from all nations to come to its Fifth Conference which will be held from July 25th—July 29th, 1938, at Girton College, Cambridge, England. All who are interested in the history of the woman movement will welcome the opportunity of visiting this pioneer college for women's education. The struggle to found Girton College and to secure the admission of women students to the University of Cambridge marks an epoch in the history of women's emancipation. We are glad, too, to offer the members of the Conference this opportunity of visiting one of the historic University towns of England, with its lovely buildings dating from the early Middle Ages, its beautiful "backs" running down to the river, and its situation in a part of the country most closely connected with pre-Norman Britain at the time of the Danish invasions.

The loss of the President of the Open Door International has been a tragic blow. The greatest tribute we can make is to carry on the work which she inspired.

A year ago, before the intended Conference in Salzburg, we said that it was never more necessary for men and women of good will to meet together and discuss how the economic position of the woman worker the world over is to be improved. The lapse of a year has not lessened this necessity. We in the Open Door International ask for the woman worker as for the man the same balance of liberty, control and responsibility, because we believe it to be right to respect the personality of a woman as something complete, and of as much worth and value as that of a man. We believe it to be wrong (however good the motive) to make the fact of sex, of motherhood, or of potential motherhood, a reason for denying to a woman worker the same political, social, civil and economic rights as a man. This is to make sex, which is an incident of personality, more important than the whole human being; to make the function performed by an individual more important than the individual who performs it. What is morally wrong can never be politically, socially or economically right.

The laws which everywhere restrict the right of a woman to earn her living, which invade that fundamental right, the right to make a contract of employment under the same conditions as a man, are claimed

to be "protective." Such laws have not protected women earners. They never will protect women earners. The position of the woman wage earner in every country, at the bottom of the wage market, disproves the claim. The damage done by special restrictions imposed on working women far exceeds the immediate harm done to the women earners who suffer it. These restrictions are not only wrong in themselves; they are bad for all women; they are bad for the family and family life; they are bad for the nation as a whole.

The economic emancipation of women is not only a great international economic question. It is a great human question.

Come then next July to the Fifth Conference of the Open Door International! Let those of us who are members meet together there in great numbers so that we from many countries, standing side by side, helping one another, united in this one great aim, may so work and so speak that the Governments and the Nations shall hear and the economic emancipation of women be brought nearer.

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CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

This is the first occasion on which the Open Door International has arranged a resident Conference. It is hoped that all delegates and members who possibly can will reside at Girton College during the week of the Conference. In this way we shall come into closer contact with one another than if we are scattered throughout the town in hotels and pensions, and we shall have the advantage of getting to know each other outside the Conference Hall. An inclusive fee of £4—to cover

(Continued on Page 248)

ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY IS A MEMBER

MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

International Headquarters: Brussels, 36 Boulevard du Regent.

MEMBER OF EQUAL RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

International Headquarters: London, 26 Palace Mansions, W. 14.

MEMBER OF OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL

International Headquarters: London, S. W. 1, 4 Iddesleigh House, Caxton St.

MEMBER OF WOMEN'S PAN PACIFIC UNION

International Headquarters: Honolulu, Hawaii.

Why I Favor The Equal Rights Amendment

DR. FLORENCE RENA SABIN, member of the staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research since 1925, and prior to that time professor of histology at Johns Hopkins University, believes that it is more important to women to have equal rights under law than through so-called protective laws applying to them alone, to be established as an "immature, minor group, not able to face life as adults."

For this reason Dr. Sabin, during the recent Senate Judiciary Committee on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, threw the weight of her influence on the side of the amendment.

Dr. Sabin, as a member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research is in a position to speak authoritatively concerning the "world's experience" of which those advocating special labor laws for women only, so often speak in pointing out the need of women for so-called protective laws placing them in an inferior class as underprivileged persons. Science, of October 18, 1935, relates the fact that on November 2 of that year, Dr. Sabin was awarded the M. Carey Thomas Prize of \$5,000 by Bryn Mawr College, in recognition of her eminent achievement. The award was made on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the college.

Just prior to the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment, Dr. Sabin was called upon by a prominent official of a national organization for her opinion, based on her research in the matter of the amendment.

Because of the eminence of Dr. Sabin and the weight of the opinion of one who arrives at conclusions as a result of research, EQUAL RIGHTS presents the request, the writer of which could not be prevailed upon to permit the use of her name or that of her organization, and likewise presents the reply of Dr. Sabin, who graciously consented to its use:

"New York, N. Y.,
February 18, 1938.

"Dr. Florence R. Sabin,
"151 East 80th Street,
"City.

"Dear Dr. Sabin:

"As Chairman of the I would like very much to have your findings and opinion in the entirety in the matter of the 'Lucretia Mott' Amendment sponsored by Senator Burke, of Nebraska.

"This matter will be brought up before our meeting and I would value and appreciate deeply your opinion, because I feel you have done considerable re-

"I BELIEVE IT TO BE BETTER FOR ALL WOMEN
TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS THAT
ARE ARTIFICIAL"

By Dr. Florence Rena Sabin
Of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

search and study in this matter.

"Deeply appreciating your sincere cooperation in this instance, I am

"Very respectfully yours,
(Signature) "_____"

Dr. Sabin's reply:

"You have asked me to state the reasons why I favor the Lucretia Mott—or Equal Rights Amendment. As you probably know, women are divided into two groups on this issue: One group, probably the larger, led by the League of Women Voters and the Federation of Women's Clubs,* opposes the Amendment, and the other one, under the leadership of the National Women's Party and the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, favors it.

"I am not disturbed over the fact that the larger number opposes the idea, since it is usual that change is opposed by a majority.

"Both groups state that they favor equality for women in principle, but the one group opposes active and immediate steps toward establishing equality and thus would be against a 'Bill of Rights,' as it were, for women. They take this stand largely on the issue of the value of the protective laws for women in industry. It is quite natural that those who have worked for and with the underprivileged, using the technique of obtaining special protective laws for women, should view with alarm the annulling of these laws.

"To the other group, however, the principle of these laws is to establish women as an immature, minor group in the community, not able to face life as adults. They believe that to establish the status of women on the basis of the feeblest and least able among them hampers the advancement of the entire group; that it has a tendency to hold them in the lower wage levels. They look upon women as able to accept the responsibilities of adult life.

"Thus the difference of opinion centers about the women of the labor group—and it must be stated that both sides are able to find women in the labor groups to speak on their respective sides.

"I believe it to be better for all women to remove the restrictions that are artificial and to permit women to find the level of their own abilities. I should wish to have the increasing socialization which is developing within our system of government to apply to persons according to their wage levels instead of according to their sex.

"I enclose herewith data in behalf of the side which I favor. I am sure you will know how to go about obtaining corresponding material from the other side.

"Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) "FLORENCE R. SABIN."

*New York Federation

Another Woman In British Parliament

Dr. Edith Summerskill, Labor's candidate, won a seat in the British House of Parliament in the April 6 election, being a candidate in the West Fulham division of London.

A cable to the New York Times from London stated: "This time the battle ground was the home of ordinary 'little men and women'—waiters, barbers,

taxi drivers, seamstresses and the rest—who work hard to bring home \$10 a week. Comparatively few of them belong to labor unions and few of them have been affiliated with any political party, but the Conservatives could not hold them in line."

Dr. Summerskill will be the twelfth woman member of the House of Commons.

New Legal Rights For French Wives

One of the best sellers in France for the past few weeks has been the copy of the French Government's Official Journal containing the new law which modifies the status of the married woman under the Civil Code. Both husbands and wives have been the buyers, wives wanting to know what new rights they have acquired, and the husbands wanting to find out whether it is true, as reported, that they have lost the last vestige of control over their spouses.

Comparison of the texts shows nothing to presage a revolution in the married relationship. The victory which the feminists of France have been hailing is important not so much in the way it will affect the happily married couples as for its effects on the cases of unhappy marriages.

Much has been made of the removal from the marriage vow of the bride's promise of obedience. But the promise to obey, itself, had long ago become a matter for jokes. According to the old reading of this article, in the Civil Code drawn up 130 years ago, the husband owed his wife protection, and the wife owed her husband obedience.

Of greater consequence to the French woman are a number of other reforms in the Civil Code, which will accord a wife a measure of independence in business matters, and release her from the supervision of her husband, hitherto the same as that exercised over minor children. Now for the first time, under the law, the wife will have the right to apply for a passport, to sign a check without her husband's counter-signature, to enter into a business contract, and to file suit in a court of law.

Juridically, therefore, the new law is a charter of emancipation.

In the new law it is declared that the married woman is endowed with "full exercise of her civil status." A woman separated from her husband for good reason will not be compelled to submit to his financial control. And wives will have the right, hitherto withheld by the law, of engaging in business and supporting themselves.

Otherwise, it is likely that French marriages will continue in the even tenor of their ways.

The new bill contains two safeguards for men. The wife, it is provided, may exercise her new business rights without interference—so long as she does not involve the family fortune in her transactions. The new Article 213 says nothing either about protection or obedience, but instead proclaims that "the husband is the head of the family." The law gives him that title. Let him exercise it if he can.—Paris Dispatch to New York Times, April 10, 1938.

British Business, Professional Women

The following is from a London dispatch to the Christian Science Monitor of April 8:

The British Branch of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women—which is one of the younger of the 25 Branches which observed International Night—was founded only in May, 1935, but already it has the sympathy of women Members of Parliament, and is active in the support of any political measure which appears to affect the status of women in business and the professions.

On International Night, the President of the British Branch of the Federation, Miss Caroline Haslett, addressed the members. "Women have gifts," she said, "and any country is the poorer if these gifts are not recognized and developed. The Federation," she said,

"is aware of a special need for a thoroughgoing dissipation of some of the 'fallacies' which still cling to the business woman, and which make progress difficult."

"The Federation believes, for instance," said Miss Haslett, "in the advisability of disabusing public thinking of the belief that women work only for pocket-money, and that such work provides merely a stop-gap between school and marriage."

"Taken on the whole, no country," Miss Haslett contended, "can with profit dispense with the services of women in responsible positions, nor ignore the contribution they are capable of making—and ready to make—to the business and professional life of the Nations."

Women's Rights

The Florida Times Union, Jacksonville, Florida, in a splendid editorial captioned "Women's Rights," says in part:

"Coming in the wake of the great agitation heard the first of the year regarding equal rights in the United States for women, and the subsequent creation of the 'Amelia Earhart Fund for Equal Rights' by the National Woman's Party, a recent marriage bill which passed the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, France, reveals the sharp contrast in the privileges enjoyed in the past by French and American women . . .

"Liberation of the American woman from many of her inhibitions, which were quite natural restraints resulting from her former mode of life, began with passage of the suffrage amendment which gave the opposite sex in this country the right of franchise. The women of the United States ever since have been on the ascendant, asserting themselves and making a place for their personalities in the world of affairs.

"Some credit, however, must be given to the World War which offered womankind an opportunity 'to find herself.' 'It's an ill wind that blows no man good,' the old saying goes, but this time it was the women who profited, because they had to take charge of all home affairs while their men folks fought the battles.

"The result was that they found more and more niches in the business and professional world, and are demanding an increasing amount of recognition, to which they have proved themselves entitled.

"Miss Helen Keller, Miss Rachel Crothers, Georgia O'Keefe and Inez Haynes Irwin, all of New York, and Mrs. Avery Cooley will be among the sponsors of the 'Amelia Earhart Fund for Equal Rights' it was announced recently by Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell, national chairman of the Woman's Party.

"In making public this information Mrs. Pell said: 'Helen Keller, who though blind can see and though deaf can hear, has proved through a most extraordinary life of achievement that human beings should be free to progress to the extent of their individual talents and capabilities. . . .'

"In France, it is believed by some persons the new bill gives more toward emancipation of women than if they have been given the right to vote. The French civil code, it was stated, formerly placed woman under the supervision of her husband, almost equally with her children . . .

"Considering the comparative ages of ancient France and young America, women of the United States must feel that they have much for which they may be thankful, despite their present agitation for more. It has often been said that the advance of civilization in a nation may be judged by the status of the women.

"Woman has gained much since early history, when she was bartered as chattel."

Tribute To Early Exponent Of Equal Rights In America

UNITED STATES SENATOR JOSEPH F. GUFFEY, of Pennsylvania, speaking over the Columbia Broadcasting System on March 30 in connection with the three hundredth anniversary of the Founding of Pennsylvania, celebrated on April 8, paid a glowing tribute to Armegot Printz, whom he characterized as "probably the first exponent of equal rights in America."

Relating the part Lieutenant Colonel Johan Printz, of Sweden, played in the early days of Pennsylvania and the resistance offered by the colony on Tinicum Island whenever the Dutch attempted to go up the river, Senator Guffey told of the development of that section under the influence of the sturdy and able Printz.

In 1663, according to Senator Guffey, Printz died of injuries sustained when he was thrown by his favorite steed and his will revealed the fact that he had willed the island to his daughter, Armegot.

Of this period in the history of his native state, Senator Guffey says, in part, of the nation's very early exponent of equal rights between women and men, to whom he pays so high a tribute:

"Meanwhile Printz willed Tinicum Island to his daughter, Armegot, who was the wife of his aide, Lieutenant Papegoja. Armegot was America's first big business-woman—the Hetty Green of her time. She sold the island and went to Sweden. When the purchaser defaulted on installments, she came right back and started legal proceedings. It was the first big law suit in America, and finally was decided in her favor by the Courts of New York some years later. She sold the Island again with like result and, yet, once more, each time making a death-defying trip across the ocean in a small open-decked ship, to save the cradle of Pennsylvania. Finally, she sold it to a purchaser who paid the money.

"Armegot Printz should be called the Founder of the Lucy Stone League in America. Despite the fact that she married Lieutenant Papegoja, she was always

"WE SHOULD CONSIDER SOME SUITABLE MEMORIAL FOR ARMEGOT PRINTZ, PROBABLY THE FIRST EXPONENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS IN AMERICA"

By United States Senator Joseph F. Guffey, of Pennsylvania

known as Armegot Printz and so signed her name on legal documents throughout her life. She also was America's first distiller, at least in the vicinity of Pennsylvania. There is a license in existence from

the British crown giving her authority to distill spirituous liquors with the admonition that she do so with great care.

"Furthermore, she remained the head of Pennsylvania's first machine industry—a couple of revolving stones that sired the millions of wheels that turn today in our glorious Commonwealth and make it the greatest industrial State in the Nation. Armegot's industrial venture was a grist mill on Cobb's Creek not far from Tinicum Island, which was erected by her father. It was used by our forefathers to grind their grain and was turned by water power. Its replica stands there today, restored by the Colonial Dames of America. Armegot Printz would have been a remarkable woman at any period of the world's history, but when we realize what it meant 300 years ago for a woman to possess courage, ability and intelligence which she showed, she stands out as a woman whose recognition by Pennsylvania has been too long delayed. While we are celebrating this great occasion of Pennsylvania's founding, we should consider some suitable memorial for Armegot Printz, probably the first exponent of equal rights in America.

"Pennsylvania, in celebrating its 300th Anniversary next April 8th—**FOREFATHERS' DAY**—does so as a unit, not as a race of Swedes, Finns, Dutch or English, but as a monumental commemoration to those great pioneer forefathers who established the culture and education that is our heritage now in 300 years of progress.

"I wish all in the sound of my voice, wherever you are, either within this imperishable nation or over the seas, to celebrate the first settlements in Pennsylvania—the Keystone State of the Union and the true 'Cradle of Liberty' of these United States."

Rupert Hughes Again Praises Women

In the March 26 issue of *Liberty* in an article captioned "Why Our Girls Won't Behave," Rupert Hughes contrasts the woman of yesterday with the woman of today and says: "As for our times, I feel the women have recently acquired a sense of fair play they never had before."

"They get it from their activity," he adds, "in sports and in business competition. The woman of our days expects to earn her own living; she looks forward to it from her girlhood; she cannot endure to live a parasite on her parents, or to throw herself on some sturdy oak."

Pointing to the fact that it is only a century since women were allowed to enjoy higher education, the author states: "At all times in history there have been occasional women who have been men so far as courage went, and genius. But they were doing the unexpected, the almost unheard-of things that are today the expected, the normal. The refusal of a woman to do her part is conspicuous now, and is regarded with scorn."

In closing he says: "We have women with wings who have dared the clouds. Some of them have perished in the seas, with majestic courage.

"The sky of opportunity is open to women as well as to men. That fellow human being whom some slight chemical or electric accident has made female instead of male is no longer crushed under the immemorial savagery of a shut sky, a veil and a barred window."

Mr. Hughes, whose talented wife is none other than Patterson Dial of the screen, and a successful author in her own right, has long been a feminist. He has championed the right of women to have equality of opportunity and to progress to the extent of their individual capabilities.

He has on several occasions warned women to safeguard their rights. He and his wife are believers in equal rights between men and women and are among those friends of equality who never let pass an opportunity to wield their pens and lend their genius to help women in their fight to share in democracy.

Applesauce For The Goose But Sauce For The Gander

According to a ruling just announced by the Board of Tax Appeals in the case of Vina Delmar, novelist and scenarist, and her husband, Eugene Delmar, the Government permitted Mr. Delmar in filing his income tax return to deduct for his 1933 losses at gambling in Mexico on the ground that it was a poor investment, resulting in loss.

The same board, at the same time, and concerning gambling losses in Mexico, refused to permit Mrs. Delmar to deduct for her losses on the ground that she played for fun and did not expect a profit.

The Washington Post, Washington, D. C., in commenting on the brand of justice so frequently meted out to women citizens, who are likewise taxpayers supporting the Government agency making the discrimination, says: "The board did not explain how it arrived at its decision."

Mrs. Delmar claimed exemption for a loss of \$300 at roulette, while her husband sought tax deduction for \$1200 lost at cards.

It is difficult to understand by what process of reasoning the board drew the fine distinction between cards and roulette, and determined that cards represented a business investment, while roulette was merely "fun." Is this the so-called protection and chivalry of which opponents of equal rights between men and women boast and which they desire for women in lieu of justice?

Woman Appointed To Major Post

Miss Myra Curtis has been appointed assistant secretary and director of Women's Establishments—a post which places her in control of over 70,000 women civil servants.

Miss Curtis is the third woman to accept this post, which was founded in 1920, and she succeeds Miss Hilda Martindale, who has retired recently.

She is not new to the civil service. Early in the World War—it was in 1915—she began her work under the Government in the War Trade Intelligence Department. From there she was drafted to the Ministry of Food and, passing the competition for the administrative class held in 1922, she was appointed to the Ministry of Pensions. Two years later, she became a superintendent in the Savings Bank Department of the Post Office. By 1934, she was a principal in the secretary's office. Now, in 1937, she finds herself in charge of a post which has been described as "one of the most responsible in Whitehall."—London Correspondent *Christian Science Monitor*.

No Interim Report

When the League of Nations committee on the status of women met this afternoon, Miss Alice Paul, of the United States, and Miss Dorothy Evans, of Great Britain, inquired whether it would not be possible to make an interim report to the Assembly on woman's franchise in various countries so the Assembly could consider immediate action. But the chairman, however, held the committee was not empowered to adopt such procedure.

Commenting afterward on the results of the meet-

ing, Miss Paul, who represents the Woman's Party, expressed satisfaction because the League "is at last concerning itself" with the question, but she foresaw some danger that the inquiry might become "an academic one only."

"If the League continues to be a body that studies but never acts," she declared, "it will cease to be on this earth."—Wireless from Geneva to New York *Times*, April 9.

Jessie Fremont's Decision

Jessie Benton Fremont, the wife of General Fremont with whom our early Spanish-California history is so interwoven, played a most important hand in the destiny of California and Oregon. Had she been another woman, no one could venture to guess what might have been our history.

General Fremont, a United States army officer, was about to venture forth from Kaw Landing (now Kansas City) in May, 1843 (less than a hundred years ago), on his second exploration of the great west and northwest. The government was dispatching him to find a new passage over the Rocky Mountains as a means of communication and egress in the event of war with Great Britain or Mexico.

This was to be a peaceful expedition, yet "because of reports of unfriendly Indians," cannon had been made a part of the equipment.

Jessie Fremont, who had remained at the family home four hundred miles distant, was so much her husband's aide that he had asked her to open all mail and forward only such as pertained to the expedition. One day there came a long official envelope marked "topographical corps," and something prompted her to read it carefully. It was an order directing Fremont "to return at once to Washington and explain why he was taking along a cannon." Since this was to be a peaceful, scientific expedition, wrote Col. Abert, "a Howitzer was not necessary." (Our relations with Great Britain and Mexico were highly delicate, and to march into debatable or foreign territory with cannon was quite improper.) Meanwhile, the letter stated, another officer would be sent to take charge of Fremont's men.

We quote from Jessie Fremont's manuscripts: "I felt the whole situation in a flash and met it as I saw right. I had been too much a part of the whole plan for the expedition to put them in peril now . . . I alone could act . . ." so instead of forwarding this letter, "I wrote urging him not to lose a day but start at once upon receiving my letter." Fremont's answer was characteristic of the man: "Goodbye, I trust and go." He asked no questions.

Jessie Fremont was unquestionably justified if, as she always believed, the Washington authorities meant to make Fremont's recall final. To her dying day she took pride in her quick and decisive action. Having listened to the conversation of the expansionists of her day, and being the confidante of her father, Senator Benton, and of her husband, she firmly believed with them that "manifest destiny" would make California and Oregon part of the United States. Her interception of that message played a tremendous part in that destiny.

(Our historical authority is Allen Nevins. We are indebted to Miss Marian Greene of the Alhambra Public Library for making this data available to us.) —Alhambra *Soroptigram*, Alhambra, California.

Open Door International Conference

(Continued from Page 243)

board and lodging from Sunday July 24th to Saturday, July 30th and the Conference fee of 5s.—has been arranged.

The formal opening of the Conference will take place on the morning of Monday, July 25th, but delegates and members will be welcomed to Girton College on Sunday, July 24th, and a reception will be held on that evening, at which three short speeches on "The Need for the Open Door International" will be made by Anna Westergaard, Acting President, Gertrud Baer, and Louise de Craene van Duuren. Among the subjects to be discussed at the Conference will be: The modern line of attack on women's civil rights. Population problems in relation to women's right to work. Modern problems of maternal health. Nutrition policies as they affect the woman worker. Women and the fight for the shorter working week. League of Nations and the Status of Women. Health in industry: the need for a sane policy.

Before each of these resolutions is submitted to the Conference, the mover will read a short paper on the subject dealt with, in order that the Conference may be informed of the situation with which it is asked to deal in the resolution.

Excursions, visits to the Colleges and to the homes of Cambridge residents will be arranged during the week; the College itself offers a gymnasium, tennis courts, and a swimming pool.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Open Door International, 4, Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S. W. 1, England. (Telegrams and Telephone: Whitehall 2421 London.)

TICKETS: Inclusive fee for the Conference and residence from Sunday, July 24th to Saturday, July 29th, £4. For non-residents for the whole Conference 5s.; for one day 2s. 6d.; for one session 1s.

Equal Is Right

Equal rights means something here. Registration books for Monday's primary list 2,420 women and 2,420 men.—Dispatch from Dodge City, Kansas-Syracuse (N. Y.) *Herald*.

Member Of Australian Parliament

Mrs. Clarence Weber, first woman M. P. for Victoria, who is in Sydney attending the Women's Conference in connection with the Celebrations, is still sufficiently new to office to be deeply impressed with the business of law making. She made the following observations before leaving for home over the weekend:

"What still strikes me as amazing," she says, "is that men can abuse each other in the House, call each other shocking names, and then, the moment they are off the leash, they are all friends together, and it is 'Jack, old boy, this,' and 'Bill, old boy, that.'"

"I still haven't got used to the great feeling of responsibility which comes when a division is called. I suppose it is the fact that I have had a large family to bring up, and that makes me so conscious of passing bills which will involve expenditure of thousands of pounds of public money and affect the lives of thousands of people.

"I am also impressed by the strenuousness of the lives of members, especially members of the Cabinet.

"So far I have only attended one all-night session, just before Christmas, and I found it thrilling. My experience so far has convinced me that being a member of Parliament is a full-time job.

"I intend to remain interested in every bill that comes before the House. I have heard country members say, 'Oh, it is only a metropolitan bill,' and I have heard metropolitan members say, 'Come on, let's go, it is only a country bill.' To me that seems very wrong, for we should be concerned about all business that comes before the House."—*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, Australia.

Favorites Of The Law

Women, who according to Blackstone have long been favorites of the law, during the early days in Pennsylvania, could be convicted by law of being "common scolds." Men could not.

They were also favorites as human torches during the days of witchcraft. Men were never favorites when our forefathers sought witches to burn at the stake.

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